



National Juvenile Defender Center
A Member of the MacArthur Foundation
Models for Change Resource Center Partnership



The National Juvenile Defender Center (NJDC) is pleased to partner with the MacArthur Foundation as a member of the Models for Change Resource Center Partnership. NJDC serves as a national resource center on juvenile defense, builds the capacity of the juvenile defense bar, and improves access to counsel and quality of representation for children in the juvenile justice system. NJDC is the only national organization that focuses solely on juvenile defense, providing juvenile defense attorneys training and assistance to improve their practice, hone their advocacy skills, and build partnerships.

As a member of the Models for Change Resource Center Partnership (RCP), NJDC functions as a peer network and clearinghouse for juvenile indigent defense materials and information. Our collaborations include law enforcement, prosecutors, judges, court personnel, and other juvenile justice stakeholders. Through this engagement NJDC seeks to ensure clarity on the role of the juvenile defender and the systemic deficiencies that prevent adequate access to counsel for children.

The Models for Change initiative generated numerous juvenile defense innovations and reforms. The *National Juvenile Defense Standards* represent the most comprehensive understanding of the role and duties of the juvenile defender in the 21st century juvenile court system. The *Standards* have been disseminated to tens of thousands of individuals and are available on our website or by requesting a hard copy. NJDC also provides comprehensive juvenile defense training through our Juvenile Training Immersion Program (JTIP). A cadre of Certified JTIP trainers have committed to delivering training in their jurisdiction and to participate in training in neighboring states.

NJDC provides stakeholders informational resources on a wide body of material, including:

- The *National Juvenile Defense Standards*
- The *MacArthur Juvenile Court Training Curriculum*
- Collateral consequences information and materials
- Developmentally appropriate judicial colloquies
- Strategies for the early appointment of counsel
- Developing and implementing model contracts for appointed counsel
- Caseload data and caseload reduction strategies
- Creating juvenile defense law school clinics and externship programs
- Developing and utilizing evaluation tools based on the *Standards*
- Establishing a presumption of indigence for children
- Eliminating the indiscriminate use of mechanical restraints
- Developing innovative post disposition strategies

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